



Education and Culture DG

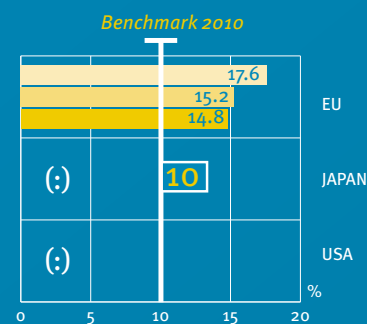
PROGRESS TOWARDS THE LISBON OBJECTIVES 2010 IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education and training in Member States is improving slowly but steadily since 2000. The performance levels in Europe equal the best in the world. Progress is made in all of the five benchmark areas for 2010, apart from one on low achievers in reading. The benchmark on the increase of number of Mathematics, Science and Technology graduates in higher education was already achieved in 2005.

In 2008, there are still significant inequities in many education and training systems. Gender, age, social origin, poverty or migrant background often affect opportunity of certain vulnerable groups of population to obtain higher levels of education. Despite of all progress, there are almost 108 million of Europeans – about one third of the labour force - with a very low educational attainment (below upper secondary education).

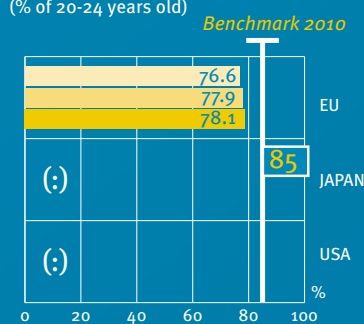
Five EU benchmarks for 2010

Early school leavers
(% of 18-24 years old)



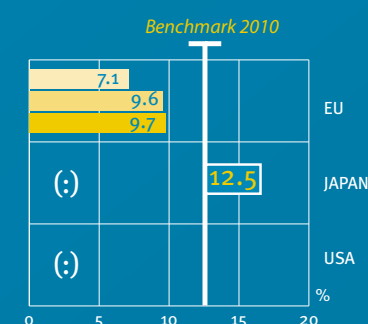
2000 2006 2007
Data source: Eurostat

Completion of upper
secondary education
(% of 20-24 years old)



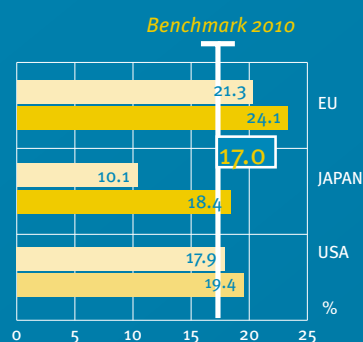
2000 2006 2007
Data source: Eurostat

Lifelong learning of adults
(% of 25-64 years old)



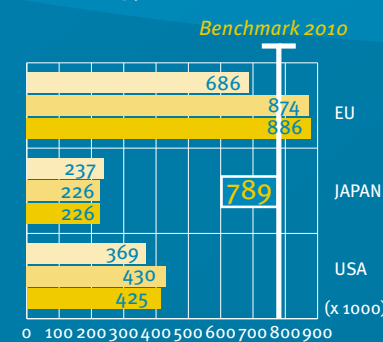
2000 2006 2007
Data source: Eurostat

Low achievers in reading
(% of 15 years old)



2000 2003 2006
Data source: OECD/PISA 2000, 2003 and 2007

Number of graduates
in Maths, Science and
Technology (x1000)



2000 2005 2006
Data source: Eurostat



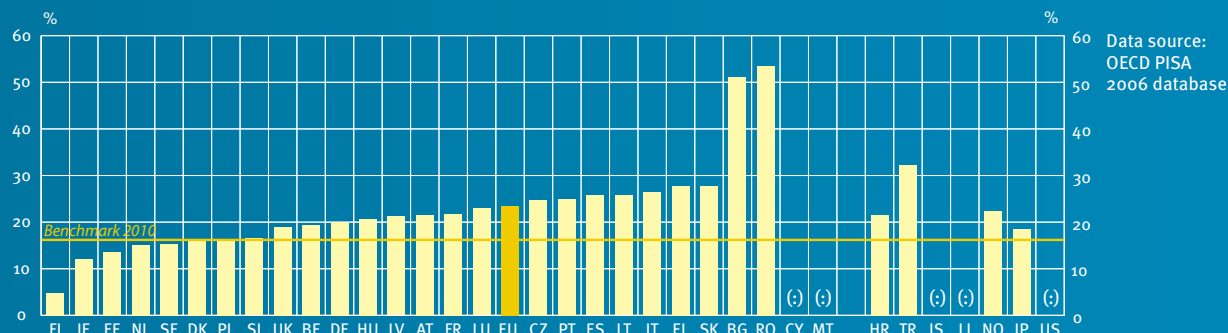
Low achievers in reading

Acquiring basic competences is essential for all citizens. Over one million out of the total of about 6 million of 15 years old in the EU are low performers in reading. In comparison to 2000, the EU performance in this area has even worsened by more than 10%.

Among the best performing countries, Denmark, Poland and especially Finland are even further improving their performance. Finland is the overall best performer with a share of less than 5% of low achievers, followed by Ireland and Estonia with shares below 15%.

EU benchmark for 2010: 20% fewer 15 years-old with poor reading skills

Percentage of pupils with reading literacy proficiency level 1 and lower on the PISA reading literacy scale, 2006



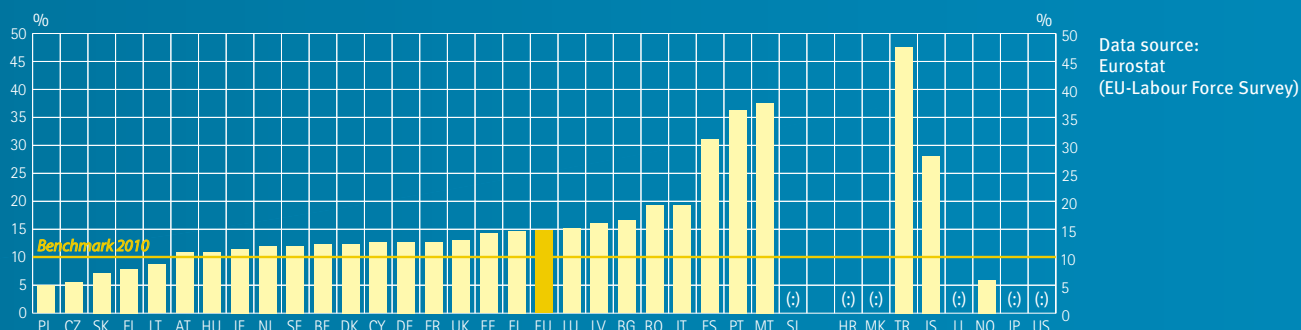
Early school leavers

One out of seven young persons aged 18 to 24 in the EU still leaves the education system with no more than lower secondary education and currently participates in no form of education and training. The high number of early school leavers is an obstacle to the development of a knowledge-based economy and a greater social cohesion. There was continuous improvement in recent years, but progress will need to be faster to reach the EU benchmark in 2010.

However, six Member States - the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland - have already shares of less than 10%. Moreover, among these countries, Poland, the Czech Republic and Finland have high performance and are even progressing further. Other countries like Malta and Portugal have considerably decreased their initially very high percentage of early school leavers.

EU benchmark for 2010: Reduce early school leavers to 10%

Share of 18-24 years old with only lower secondary education or less and not in education and training, 2007



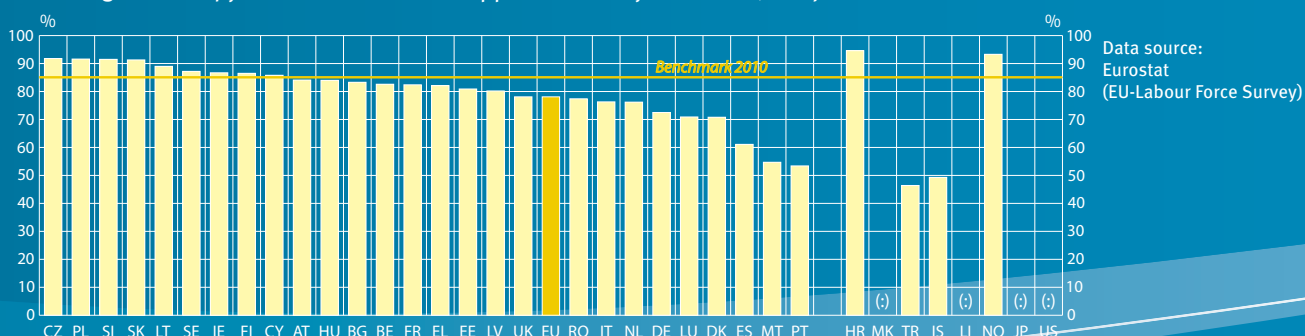
Completion of upper secondary education

Full participation in the knowledge-based society requires that each individual is equipped with at least upper secondary education. However, the share of young people who have completed upper secondary education in the EU is below 80% and has only slightly improved since 2000.

Nine Member States currently exceed the EU benchmark for 2010 of 85% graduation. Moreover, six countries (the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia, also Norway and Croatia) perform above 90%. Some countries with relatively low completion rates, such as Portugal and Malta, have made considerable progress since 2000.

EU benchmark for 2010: Reach 85% having completed upper secondary education

Percentage of 20-24 years old with at least upper secondary education, 2007



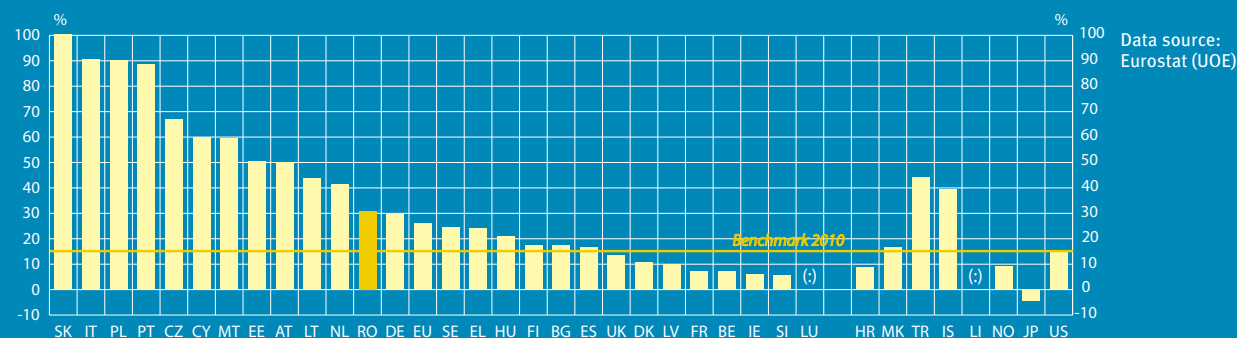
Mathematics, Science and Technology graduates

A highly qualified workforce is crucial for competing successfully in the global knowledge-based economy. The number of Maths, Science & Technology graduates in the EU has increased since 2000 by more than 25%. The EU has thus already achieved the benchmark before 2010. More limited progress has been achieved as regards to correcting the imbalance between female and male graduates.

While Poland, Slovakia and Portugal have progressed most since 2000 with annual growth rates above 10%, three big countries - the UK, France and Poland - are increasing the EU average with high levels of performance and progress. Bulgaria, Estonia and Greece perform best as regards to the gender balance.

EU benchmark for 2010: 15% increase of Maths, Science and Technology graduates

Growth in the number of Math, Science and Technology graduates in 2000 – 2006, in %



Participation of adults in lifelong learning

Lifelong learning is fundamental, not only for the competitiveness and economic prosperity of the EU, but also for social inclusion, employability, active citizenship and personal fulfilment of people.

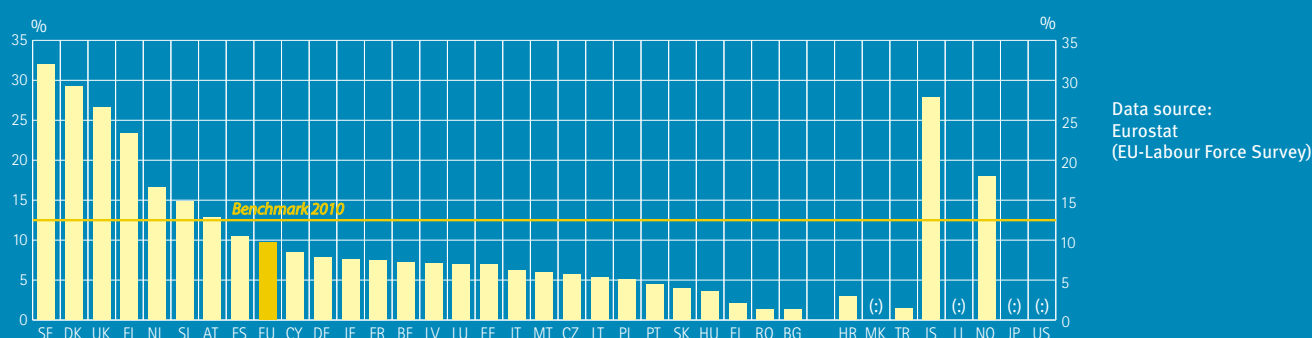
The percentage of adults (age 25 to 64) participating in education and training amounted to 9.7% in 2007 and is rather

stagnating during recent few years. The highest performers are the Nordic countries (Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway), as well as the UK, Slovenia and Austria, all of which have performance levels above the EU benchmark for 2010 and are still progressing. The performance of the Netherlands and Iceland are of similar high levels but progress has stopped.

EU benchmark for 2010:

Increase of participation in lifelong learning to 12.5% of the adult population

Percentage of population aged 25-64 participating in education and training in the four weeks prior to the survey, 2007

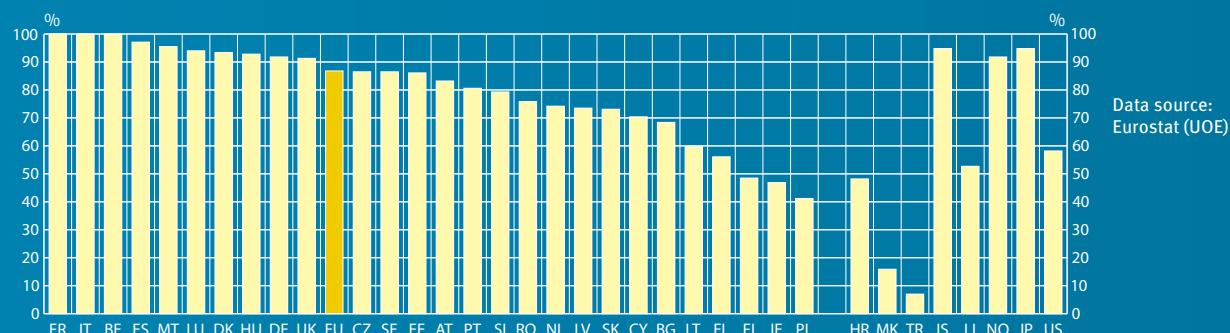


Participation in pre-school day-care institutions

There is some evidence that participation in pre-primary education has a positive impact on performance during compulsory schooling, in particular for children coming from socio-economically disadvantaged family backgrounds. In 2006, 86.8 % of 4 years old children were enrolled in education. Between 2000 and 2006, enrolment levels increased by 4 percentage points. Up to 100% of 4 years old children participate in pre-primary education in Belgium, Italy,

France, Spain, Malta and Iceland. In seven other countries, the participation has increased by about 10 to 15 percentage points since 2000. Twelve countries have participation rates for 4 years old above the objective of 90% set by the Barcelona European Council in 2002.

Participation of 4 years old children in education, 2006



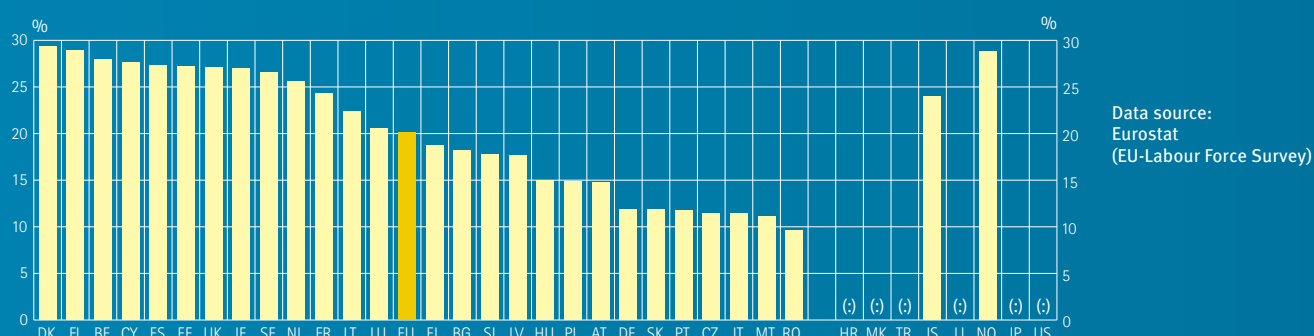
Educational level of population

The level of educational attainment of the working age population provides a good indication of the knowledge and skills available in the EU. Because there is evidence of a very close relationship between educational attainment levels and labour market participation and other social and economic factors, improving the educational attainment of the European population is one of the most important long term objectives of the EU.

The educational attainment of 15-64 years old Europeans has improved considerably since 2000. The share of the population with at most lower secondary education is down by 5.3%, and the share with higher education is up 3.6%.

The share of the population with high educational attainment varies between 9.9% in Romania and 29.7% in Cyprus. Ireland, Cyprus and Malta have experienced the strongest growth in this area.


Percentage of the population (age 15-64) with higher education, 2007





Investment in education and training


Investment in human capital through education and training is central for strengthening Europe's position in the knowledge economy and for increasing social cohesion. At present, Denmark, Sweden and Cyprus devote around 7% or more of their GDP into public investment in education. These are among the highest levels of public investment in education in the world.


Although private investment in education is increasing in the EU, it is only significant in 4 Member States (the United Kingdom, Germany, Cyprus and Slovakia). For these countries, private investment reaches up to 17%, still well behind Japan, Australia, the United States and Korea with percentages from 25% to 40% of the total investment in education.


AUSTRIA		Austria		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
		2000	2007	2000	2007	2010	
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old							
		19.3 %	21.5 % ⁶	21.3 %	24.1 % ⁶	17.0 %	
Early school leavers (age 18-24)							
		10.2 %	10.9 %	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %	
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)							
		85.1 % ^(b)	84.1 %	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %	
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology	Increase Since 2000	:	+50.0 % ⁶	:	+29.1 % ⁶	+15 %	Improve gender balance
		19.9 %	24.5 % ⁶	30.7 %	31.6 % ⁶	12.5 %	
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)							
		8.3 %	12.8 %	7.1 % ^(a)	9.7 % ^(a)	12.5 %	
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old							
		79.5 %	83.2 % ⁶	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %	
Population with higher education (age 15-64)							
		12.3 %	14.8 %	17 %	20.6 %		
Public investment in education, % of GDP							
		5.66 %	5.44 % ¹	4.94 % ^(a)	5.03 % ^{1(a)}	Significant increase	


CYPRUS		Cyprus		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2007	2000	2007	
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old						
	:	:	:	21.3 %	24.1 % ⁶	17.0 %
Early school leavers (age 18-24)						
	18.5 %	12.6 % ^(b)	17.6 %	14.8 %		10 %
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)						
	79.0 %	85.8 %	76.6 %	78.1 %		85 %
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology	Increase since 2000	:	+ 59.8 % ⁶	:	+29.1 % ⁶	+15 %
Share of females	31.0 %	35.9 % ⁶	30.7 %	31.6 % ⁶		Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)	3.1 %	8.4 %	7.1 % ^(a)	9.7 % ^(a)		12.5 %
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old	55.7 %	70.4 % ⁶	82.8 %	86.8 % ⁵		90 %
Population with higher education (age 15-64)	22.1 %	29.7 %	17 %	20.6 %		
Public investment in education, % of GDP	5.44 %	6.92 % ⁵	4.94 % ^(a)	5.03 % ^{1(a)}		Significant increase


ESTONIA		Estonia		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2007	2000	2007	
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old						
	:		13.5 % ⁶	21.3 %	24.1 % ⁶	17.0 %
Early school leavers (age 18-24)						
		14.2 %	14.3 %	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)						
		79.0 %	80.9 %	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology	Increase since 2000	:	+ 50.6 % ⁴	:	+29.1 % ⁶	+15 %
		35.7 %	42.9 % ⁶	30.7 %	31.6 % ⁶	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)						
		6.5 %	7.0 %	7.1 % ^(a)	9.7 % ^(a)	12.5 %
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old						
		78.2 %	86.1 % ⁶	82.8 %	86.8 % ⁵	90 %
Population with higher education (age 15-64)						
		23.7 %	27.3 %	17 %	20.6 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP						
		5.57 %	4.87 % ¹	4.94 % ^(a)	5.03 % ^{1(a)}	Significant increase


BELGIUM		Belgium		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
		2000	2007	2000	2007	2010	
							2010
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old							
		19.0 %	19.4 % ⁶	21.3 %	24.1 % ⁶	17.0 %	
Early school leavers (age 18-24)							
		12.5 %	12.3 %	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %	
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)							
		81.7 %	82.6 %	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %	
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology	Increase since 2000	:	+7.1 % ⁶	:	+29.1 % ⁶	+15 %	Improve gender balance
		25.0 %	+6.5 % ⁶	30.7 %	31.6 % ⁶		
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)							
		6.2 %	7.2 % ^(b)	7.1 % ^(a)	9.7 % ^(a)	12.5 %	
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old							
		99.2 %	100 % ⁶	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %	
Population with higher education (age 15-64)							
		23.8 %	28.1 %	17 %	20.6 %		
Public investment in education, % of GDP							
		6.00 % ¹	5.95 % ¹	4.94 % ^(a)	5.03 % ^{1(a)}	Significant increase	


CZECH REPUBLIC		Czech Republic		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2007	2000	2007	2010
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old						
		17.5 %	24.8 % ⁶	21.3 %	24.1 % ⁶	17.0 %
Early school leavers (age 18-24)						
		5.5 % ¹	5.55 % ⁶	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)						
		91.2 %	91.8 %	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology	Increase since 2000	:	+67.2 % ⁶	:	+29.1 % ⁶	+15 %
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)	Share of females	27.0 %	26.5 % ⁶	30.7 %	31.6 % ⁶	Improve gender balance
		5.6 % ¹	5.7 %	7.1 % ^(a)	9.7 % ^(a)	12.5 %
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old						
		81.0 %	86.5 % ⁶	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %
Population with higher education (age 15-64)						
		9.5 %	11.6 %	17 %	20.6 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP						
		4.04 %	4.25 % ¹	4.94 % ^(a)	5.03 % ^{1(a)}	Significant increase


FINLAND		Finland		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
		2000	2007	2000	2007	2010	
Low achievers in reading, 15 years old		7.0 %	4.8 % ⁶	21.3 %	24.1 % ⁶	17.0 %	
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		8.9 %	7.9 % (b,p)	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %	
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		87.7 %	86.5 %	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %	
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology	Increase since 2000	:	+17.6 % ⁶	:	+29.1 % ⁶	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)	Share of females	27.3 %	28.5 % ⁶	30.7 %	31.6 % ⁶	12.5 %	
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		17.5 %	23.4 % (b)	7.1 % (e)	9.7 % (e)	90 %	
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		41.9 %	48.5 % ⁶	82.8 %	86.8 % ⁵		
Public investment in education, % of GDP		27.5 %	29.5 %	17 %	20.6 %	Significant increase	
		6.08 %	6.31 % ¹	4.94 % ^(a)	5.03 % ^{1(a)}		


BULGARIA		Bulgaria		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
		2000	2007	2000	2007	2010	
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old							
		40.3 %	51.1 % ⁶	21.3 %	24.1 % ⁶	17.0 %	
Early school leavers (age 18-24)							
		20.3 % ¹	16.6 %	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %	
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)							
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology	Increase Since 2000	:	+17.5 % ⁶	:	+29.1 % ⁶	+15 %	
	Share of females	45.6 %	41.2 % ⁶	39.7 %	31.6 % ⁶	Improve gender balance	
Participation of adults in lifelong learning (age 25-64)							
		1.4 % ¹	1.3 %	7.1 % ⁽¹⁾	9.7 % ⁽¹⁾	12.5 %	
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old							
		57.0 %	68.4 %	82.8 %	86.8 % ⁵	90 %	
Population with higher education (age 15-64)							
		35.2 %	18.5 %	17 %	20.6 %		
Public investment in education, % of GDP							
		4.19 %	4.51 % ⁵	4.94 % ⁽¹⁾	5.03 % ⁽¹⁾	Significant increase	


GERMANY		Germany		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
		2000	2007	2000	2007	2010	2010
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		22.6 %	20.0 % ^a	21.3 %	24.1 % ^a	47.0 %	
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		14.9 %	12.7 %	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %	
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		74.7 %	72.5 % ^(b)	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %	
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+29.6 % ^a	:	+29.1 % ^a	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		21.6 %	28.6 % ^a	30.7 %	31.6 % ^a	12.5 %	
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		5.2 %	7.8 %	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	90 %	
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		81.4 %	83.1 % ^a	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		21.4 %	20.7 %	17 %	20.6 %	Significant increase	


GREECE		Greece		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
		2000	2007	2000	2007	2010	2010
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		24.4 %	27.7 % ^a	21.3 %	24.1 % ^a	47.0 %	
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		18.2 %	14.7 % ^(b)	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %	
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		79.2 %	82.1 %	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %	
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+24.1 % ^a	:	+29.1 % ^a	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		1.0 %	2.1 % ^(b)	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	12.5 %	
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		53.9 %	56.1 % ^a	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %	
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		14.0 %	19.2 %	17 %	20.6 %	Significant increase	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		3.71 %	3.98 % ¹	4.94 % ¹ ^(e)	5.03 % ¹ ^(e)	Significant increase	


HUNGARY		Hungary		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
		2000	2007	2000	2007	2010	2010
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		22.7 %	20.6 % ^a	21.3 %	24.1 % ^a	47.0 %	
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		13.8 %	10.9 % ^(b)	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %	
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		83.5 %	84.0 % ^(b)	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %	
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+20.9 % ^a	:	+29.1 % ^a	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		22.6 %	27.9 % ^a	30.7 %	31.6 % ^a	12.5 %	
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		2.9 %	3.6 % ^(b)	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	90 %	
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		89.5 %	92.8 % ^a	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		11.5 %	15.4 %	17 %	20.6 %	Significant increase	


IRELAND		Ireland		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
		2000	2007	2000	2007	2010	2010
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		11.0 %	12.2 % ^a	21.3 %	24.1 % ^a	47.0 %	
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		14.7 % ^a	11.5 % ^(b)	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %	
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		82.6 %	86.7 %	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %	
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+6.0 % ^a	:	+29.1 % ^a	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		37.9 %	29.1 % ^a	30.7 %	31.6 % ^a	12.5 %	
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		5.5 % ^a	7.6 % ^(b)	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	90 %	
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		51.1 %	46.9 % ^a	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		18.7 %	28.1 %	17 %	20.6 %	Significant increase	

ITALY		Italy		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
		2000	2007	2000	2007	2010	2010
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		18.9 %	26.4 % ^a	21.3 %	24.1 % ^a	47.0 %	
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		25.3 %	19.3 %	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %	
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		69.4 %	76.3 %	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %	
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+90.8 % ^a	:	+29.1 % ^a	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		36.6 %	36.1 % ^a	30.7 %	31.6 % ^a	12.5 %	
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		4.8 %	6.2 % ^(b)	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	90 %	
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		100 %	100 % ^a	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		8.1 %	12.0 %	17 %	20.6 %	Significant increase	


LATVIA		Latvia		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
		2000	2007	2000	2007	2010	2010
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		30.1 %	21.2 % ^a	21.3 %	24.1 % ^a	47.0 %	
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		19.5 % ^a	16.0 % ^(p)	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %	
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		76.5 %	80.2 % ^(b)	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %	
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+9.9 % ^a	:	+29.1 % ^a	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		31.4 %	32.4 % ^a	30.7 %	31.6 % ^a	12.5 %	
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		7.3 % ^a	7.1 %	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	90 %	
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		60.6 %	73.5 % ^a	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		14.9 %	18.8 %	17 %	20.6 %	Significant increase	


LITHUANIA		Lithuania		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
		2000	2007	2000	2007	2010	2010
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		:	25.7 % ^a	21.3 %	24.1 % ^a	47.0 %	
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		16.7 %	8.7 % ^(b)	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %	
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		78.9 %	89.0 % ^(b)	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %	
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+44.0 % ^a	:	+29.1 % ^a	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		35.9 %	31.6 % ^a	30.7 %	31.6 % ^a	12.5 %	
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		2.8 %	5.3 % ^(b)	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	90 %	
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		51.0 %	59.7 % ^a	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		34.7 %	24.1 %	17 %	20.6 %	Significant increase	


LUXEMBOURG		Luxembourg		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
		2000	2007	2000	2007	2010	2010
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		(35.1 %)	22.9 % ^a	21.3 %	24.1 % ^a	47.0 %	
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		16.8 %	15.1 %	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %	
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		77.5 %	70.9 % ^(b)	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %	
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	:	:	+29.1 % ^a	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		4.8 %	7.0 % ^(b)	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	12.5 %	
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		94.9 %	94.0 % ^a	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %	
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		16.7 %	22.7 %	17 %	20.6 %	Significant increase	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		3.74 % ¹	3.81 % ¹	4.94 % ¹ ^(e)	5.03 % ¹ ^(e)	Significant increase	

MALTA		Malta		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals	
		2000	2007	2000	2007	2010	2010
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		:	:	21.3 %	24.1 % ^a	47.0 %	
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		54.2 %	37.6 % ^(b)	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %	
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		40.9 %	54.7 % ^(b)	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %	
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+59.7 % ^a	:	+29.1 % ^a	+15 %	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		26.3 %	25.9 % ^a	30.7 %	31.6 % ^a	12.5 %	
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		4.5 %	6.0 % ^(b)	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	90 %	
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		100 %	95.5 % ^a	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		4.9 %	11.5 %	17 %	20.6 %	Significant increase	


1: (2001) 2: (2002) 3: (2003) 4: (2004) 5: (2005) 6: (2006) (a) calculation based on estimate for 2006 result, (b) break in time series, (c) Growth rate has been calculated only for years without breaks in time series, (e) estimated value, (p) provisional, (e) Eurostat estimate, (b) unreliable or uncertain data, 0 results not fully comparable


NETHERLANDS		Netherlands		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2007	2000	2007	
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		(9.5) %	15.1 % ⁶	21.3 %	24.1 % ⁶	17.0 %
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		15.5 %	12.0 % ^(b)	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		71.9 %	76.2 %	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+41.5 % ⁶	:	+29.1 % ⁶	+15 %
Share of females		17.6 %	18.4 % ⁶	30.7 %	31.6 % ⁶	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		15.5 %	16.6 % ^(b)	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	12.5 %
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		99.5 %	74.2 % ⁶	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		20.7 %	26.7 %	17 %	20.6 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		4.86 %	5.19 % ¹	4.94 % ^(e)	5.03 % ^(e)	Significant increase


ROMANIA		Romania		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2007	2000	2007	
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		41.3 %	53.5 % ⁶	21.3 %	24.1 % ⁶	17.0 %
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		22.3 %	19.2 % ^(b)	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		76.1 %	77.4 %	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+30.7 % ⁶	:	+29.1 % ⁶	+15 %
Share of females		35.1 %	38.6 % ⁶	30.7 %	31.6 % ⁶	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		0.9 %	1.3 %	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	12.5 %
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		60.3 %	75.8 % ⁶	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		74 %	9.9 %	17 %	20.6 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		2.88 %	3.48 % ¹	4.94 % ^(e)	5.03 % ^(e)	Significant increase


SPAIN		Spain		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2007	2000	2007	
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		16.3 %	25.7 % ⁶	21.3 %	24.1 % ⁶	17.0 %
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		29.1 %	31.0 % ^(b)	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		66.0 %	61.1 %	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+16.6 % ⁶	:	+29.1 % ⁶	+15 %
Share of females		31.5 %	30.0 % ⁶	30.7 %	31.6 % ⁶	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		4.1 %	10.4 % ^(b)	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	12.5 %
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		99.0 %	97.2 % ⁶	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		21.0 %	27.0 %	17 %	20.6 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		4.28 %	4.23 % ¹	4.94 % ^(e)	5.03 % ^(e)	Significant increase


1: (2001) 2: (2002) 3: (2003) 4: (2004) 5: (2005) 6: (2006) (b) calculation based on estimate for 2006 result, (b) break in time series, (c) Growth rate has been calculated only for years without breaks in time series, (e) estimated value, (p) provisional, (s) Eurostat estimate, (u) unreliable or uncertain data, () results not fully comparable


POLAND		Poland		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2007	2000	2007	
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		23.2 %	16.2 % ⁶	21.3 %	24.1 % ⁶	17.0 %
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		7.9 % ¹	5.0 % ^(b)	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		88.8 %	91.6 %	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+90.4 % ⁶	:	+29.1 % ⁶	+15 %
Share of females		35.9 %	39.2 % ⁴	30.7 %	31.6 % ⁶	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		4.3 % ¹	5.1 % ^(b)	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	12.5 %
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		33.3 %	41.2 % ⁶	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		9.1 %	15.7 %	17 %	20.6 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		4.87 %	5.47 % ¹	4.94 % ^(e)	5.03 % ^(e)	Significant increase

SLOVAKIA		Slovakia		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2007	2000	2007	
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		:	27.8 % ⁶	21.3 %	24.1 % ⁶	17.0 %
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		5.6 % ²	7.5 % ^(b)	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		94.8 %	91.3 %	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+100.3 % ⁶	:	+29.1 % ⁶	+15 %
Share of females		30.1 %	34.8 % ⁴	30.7 %	31.6 % ⁶	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		8.5 % ²	3.9 % ^(b)	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	12.5 %
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		68.4 % ¹	73.1 % ⁶	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		8.2 %	11.9 %	17 %	20.6 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		4.15 %	3.85 % ¹	4.94 % ^(e)	5.03 % ^(e)	Significant increase

SWEDEN		Sweden		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2007	2000	2007	
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		12.6 %	15.3 % ⁶	21.3 %	24.1 % ⁶	17.0 %
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		7.7 %	12.0 % ⁶ (b)	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		85.2 %	87.2 % ^(b)	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+24.5 % ⁶	:	+29.1 % ⁶	+15 %
Share of females		32.1 %	34.4 % ⁶	30.7 %	31.6 % ⁶	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		21.6 %	32.0 % ⁶ (b, c)	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	12.5 %
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		72.8 %	86.5 % ⁶	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		26.8 %	27.0 %	17 %	20.6 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		7.31 %	6.97 % ¹	4.94 % ^(e)	5.03 % ^(e)	Significant increase

PORTUGAL		Portugal		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2007	2000	2007	
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		26.3 %	24.9 % ⁶	21.3 %	24.1 % ⁶	17.0 %
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		42.6 %	36.3 % ^(b, p)	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		43.2 %	53.4 %	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+88.5 % ⁶	:	+29.1 % ⁶	+15 %
Share of females		41.9 %	39.7 % ⁶	30.7 %	31.6 % ⁶	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		3.4 %	4.4 % ^(b, p)	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	12.5 %
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		72.3 %	80.6 % ⁶	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		7.6 %	12.0 % ¹	17 %	20.6 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		5.42 %	5.40 % ¹	4.94 % ^(e)	5.03 % ^(e)	Significant increase

SLOVENIA		Slovenia		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2007	2000	2007	
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		:	16.5 % ⁶	21.3 %	24.1 % ⁶	17.0 %
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		7.5 % ¹	4.3 % ^(u)	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		88.0 %	91.5 %	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+5.7 % ⁶	:	+29.1 % ⁶	+15 %
Share of females		22.8 %	25.7 % ⁶	30.7 %	31.6 % ⁶	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		7.3 % ¹	14.8 % ^(b)	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	12.5 %
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		67.7 %	79.3 % ⁶	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		12.8 %	18.5 %	17 %	20.6 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		6.56 % ¹	5.83 % ¹	4.94 % ^(e)	5.03 % ^(e)	Significant increase

UNITED KINGDOM		United Kingdom		EU average		EU Benchmarks and goals
		2000	2007	2000	2007	
Low achievers in Reading, 15 years old		(12.8) %	19.0 % ⁶	21.3 %	24.1 % ⁶	17.0 %
Early school leavers (age 18-24)		18.4 %	13.0 % ⁶	17.6 %	14.8 %	10 %
Completion of upper secondary education (age 20-24)		76.6 %	78.1 %	76.6 %	78.1 %	85 %
Higher education graduates in Maths, Science and Technology		:	+13.4 % ⁶	:	+29.1 % ⁶	+15 %
Share of females		32.1 %	30.8 % ⁶	30.7 %	31.6 % ⁶	Improve gender balance
Participation of adults in lifelong learning, (age 25-64)		20.5 %	26.6 % ⁶ (b, p)	7.1 % ^(e)	9.7 % ^(e)	12.5 %
Participation in pre-primary education, 4 years old		100 %	91.3 % ⁶	82.8 %	86.8 % ¹	90 %
Population with higher education (age 15-64)		25.3 %	28.2 %	17 %	20.6 %	
Public investment in education, % of GDP		4.64 %	5.45 % ¹	4.94 % ^(e)	5.03 % ^(e)	Significant increase



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Monitoring of progress in education and training

The Commission publishes, since 2004, annual “Progress reports” monitoring the performance and improvements in Europe in relation to the 2010 Lisbon objectives for education and training. The 2008 report is based on a coherent framework of 16 core indicators and 5 benchmarks

which were adopted by the Council (Education) in 2007. The progress reports are prepared by the Directorate-General for Education and Culture in close cooperation with Eurostat, CRELL Research Centre (JRC) and the Eurydice European Unit.

Country abbreviations

EU European Union

BE Belgium
BG Bulgaria
CZ Czech Republic
DK Denmark
DE Germany
EE Estonia
IE Ireland
EL Greece
ES Spain
FR France
IT Italy
CY Cyprus
LV Latvia
LT Lithuania
LU Luxembourg
HU Hungary

MT Malta
NL Netherlands
AT Austria
PL Poland
PT Portugal
RO Romania
SI Slovenia
SK Slovakia
FI Finland
SE Sweden
UK United Kingdom

Candidate countries

HR Croatia
TR Turkey
MK Former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia

European Economic Area

IS Iceland
LI Liechtenstein
NO Norway

Others

JP Japan
US/USA United States of America

This leaflet is based on the Commission Staff Working Document :

“Progress towards the Lisbon Objectives in education and training, 2008
Indicators and Benchmarks”

It uses the latest available data (as of end June 2008)

The full text of the report is available at :http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/2010/objectives_en.html#measuring



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